

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 1069

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SUBJ: SOVIET FEELERS TOWARDS DONAU-ERUOPAISCHE INSTITUT
(DANUBE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE) IN VIENNA

1. SUMMARY: FORMER VICE CHANCELLOR BOCK, PRESIDENT OF DANUBE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE (WHICH IS PRIVATE AUSTRIAN ORGANIZATION PRIMARILY ORIENTED TOWARDS PROMOTION OF EAST-WEST TRADE) CALLED ON AMBASSADOR TO INFORM HIM OF OFFICIAL SOVIET INQUIRIES ABOUT INSTITUTTE, PARTICULARLY SOVIET QUERY ON WHETHER INSTITUTE COULD BE HELPFUL "TO EASE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS" IN US-USSR ECONOMIC RELATIONS. (END SUMMARY)

2. BOCK REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR TO INFORM HIM OF WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS AN UNUSUAL DEVELOPMENT ARISING FROM A DISCUSSION WITH DZHERMAN MIKHAYLOVICH GVISHIANI (DEPUTY DIRECTOR, STATE COMMITTEE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SYSTEMS ANALYSIS IN LAXENBURG, AUSTRIA) LAST FALL ABOUT ESTABLISHING A REPRESENTATION OF THE INSTITUTE IN MOSCOW. (THE INSTITUTE HAS REPRESENTATIVES IN MOST EE AND SEVERAL WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, USUALLY PRIVATE CITIZENS OR PERSONS IN A SEMI-OFFICIAL CAPACITY OF THESE COUNTRIES.) BOCK SAID THAT DURING NON-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON EAST-WEST DETENTE IN VIENNA LAST NOVEMBER (VIENNA'S A-526, NOV 22, 1974 WHICH HE CHAIRED, SENIOR SOVIET DELEGATE, CONFIDENTIAL

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GVISHIANI, HAD APPROACHED BOCK AND ASKED HIM WHY THE INSTITUTE

HAD NO REPRESENTATIVE IN THE SOVIET UNION. BOCK TOLD GVISHIANI THAT UNTIL NOW INSTITUTE'S DESIRE TO HAVE CLOSER CONNECTION IN USSR HAD NOT FOUND "A SPECIAL ECHO" OR MUCH INTEREST IN MOSCOW. GVISHIANI SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER UPON HIS RETURN TO SOVIET UNION.

3. PRESUMABLY AS RESULT THIS CONVERSATION, BOCK SAID COUNSELOR A. J. BOUDAKOV OF SOVIET EMBASSY IN VIENNA CALLED AT INSTITUTE LAST WEEK TO INQUIRE ABOUT ITS ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES AND TO ASK ABOUT ITS ROLE IN LAST NOVEMBER'S CONFERENCE. DURING THIS CONVERSATION (WHICH TOOK PLACE BETWEEN BUDAKOV AND THE INSTITUTE'S EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, DR. CARL MANG) BOUDAKOV SPECIFICALLY ASKED WHETHER INSTITUTE COULD DO SOMETHING POSITIVE TO IMPROVE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN US-USSR ECONOMIC RELATIONS IN THE WAKE OF SOVIET ABROGATION OF TRADE AGREEMENT WITH US. MANG DISCUSSED GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF INSTITUTE WITH BOUDAKOV, EMPHASIZING ITS NON-OFFICIAL CHARACTER AND TYPES OF ACTIVITIES IT ENGAGES IN, SUCH AS MEETINGS AND SEMINARS FOR THE BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL COMMUNITY.

4. BOCK FELT WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THESE SOVIET FEELERS, COMMENTING THAT THIS WAS PERHAPS "A SMALL PARTICLE OF SAND IN SOVIET MOSIAC." HE ADDED THAT SOVIET CHARGE, MAMONTOV, WOULD CALL ON HIM NEXT WEEK TO FURTHER PURSUE SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE SOVIET RELATIONSHIP WITH INSTITUTE. BOCK SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH US AGAIN AFTER THIS CALL. WE ASKED BOCK WHETHER HE HAD MENTIONED SOVIET APPROACH TO AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. BOCK REPLIED HE HAD NOT BUT IN DUE COURSE WOULD INFORM FOREIGN MINISTER BIELKA.

5. COMMENT:

ALTHOUGH BOCK APPEARED SURPRISED AND BAFFLED BY SUDDEN SOVIET COURTING OF INSTITUTE IN THE CONTEXT OF POSSIBLY USING IT TO "IMPROVE" US-SOVIET RELATIONS, IT IS NO SECRET THAT HE HAS FOR SOMETIME BEEN ANXIOUS TO ACHIEVE GREATER INVOLVEMENT BY THE INSTITUTE IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE OF ECONOMIC SUBJECTS RELATING TO EAST-WEST DETENTE. FROM TIME TO TIME HE HAS ALSO MADE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN GREATER US PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES OF INSTITUTE, INCLUDING SOME KIND OF OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION IN THE US. ALTHOUGH BOCK MADE NO ATTEMPT TO GIVE HIS OWN INTERPRETATION

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OF SOVIET APPROACH TO INSTITUTE, WE SUSPECT THAT HE WOULD WELCOME ANYTHING THAT WOULD ENHANCE INSTITUTE'S ACTIVITIES IN "BRIDGE-BUILDING" BETWEEN US AND USSR (IN THE TRADE, FINANCIAL AND SCIENTIFIC AREAS). ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOVIET APPROACH MAY BE STRAW IN THE WIND AND POSSIBLY OPENING OF A SOVIET CAMPAIGN TO SWEETEN PRESENT ATMOSPHERE IN THE WAKE OF ABROGATION OF TRADE AGREEMENT. HUMES

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